

Wrong test, but right man to pass: Aristotle Ogoke takes on challenges

Failure was not on Aristotle Ogoke's mind in when he signed up to take a certification examination in computer programming with an emphasis on systems programming. But when he received the test paper, it did not look like the computer systems exam.

Facing the dilemma of asking for a different exam or taking one for which he was not prepared and risking failure, Ogoke, a 1978 Gallaudet graduate, decided to proceed with the test.

A few months later he received a letter from the examining board. There was good news and bad news. The bad news was that he mistakenly had been given a test in business programming (which fewer than 27 percent of the exam-takers pass on the first try). The good news: He had passed and was, unintentionally, a certified business programmer.

Ogoke, now a database coordinator in the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Evaluation (OIRPE), became the first deaf person to pass all five sections of the Certificate in Data Processing (CDP) exam in one sitting. That same year, 1984, he was awarded an Institute for Certification of Computer Professionals (ICCP) certificate.

Ogoke was born and raised in Nigeria, where his father was an official in that country's educational system. His high school education was interrupted in 1967 when the school was closed because of civil war. He returned to

school when the war ended in 1970. Ten months later, he became deaf from unknown causes.

Despite his absence from school for three years (because of the war) and classroom communication problems (due to deafness), Ogoke graduated from high school on schedule. Determined to continue his education, he applied to universities in Nigeria—only to be turned down because of his deafness.

Finally, he was accepted at a technological institution where he studied civil engineering and construction for a year and a half.

Ogoke's continued search for higher education led him to enter Gallaudet in 1975. Ogoke laughs now when he recalls his first year here. New to the campus, the country and sign language, he did not appear to be destined for academic success.

However, Ogoke said he had "some awesome teachers" in mathematics, business administration and physics. He mentioned Leon Auerbach, Alan Crammatte, Jean Berube, Suleiman Bushnaq, Rosalie Robinette and Gerald Daly.

Daly, an associate professor of physics, was Ogoke's academic advisor. "Mr. Daly told me to try each new path" even though I did not know where it led or how it would end. He said trying was the important thing, not whether I failed. That advice turned me loose," said Ogoke. "It gave me confidence in the classroom and in living at



Aristotle Ogoke

Gallaudet."

He graduated with distinction in 1978, earning bachelor's degrees in both physics and business administration/data processing (now called computer information systems). Two years later he received a master of business management degree in computer applications and management information systems, also from Gallaudet.

As database coordinator in OIRPE, Ogoke is involved in the development,

continued on page 2

New commission on deaf education meeting this week

The newly established Commission on Education of the Deaf is holding its first meeting January 25 to 28 in Washington, D.C.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) selected the final two members of the commission on Jan. 16, five months after President Reagan signed the Education of the Deaf Act in 1986. The commission's mandate is to study the current status of deaf education programs in the United States and to report its findings to Congress by Feb. 4, 1988.

Frank Bowe, a Gallaudet graduate, was appointed chair of the commission. Others serving are Gary Austin, Gertrude Galloway, Nanette Fabray MacDougall, William J. Gainer, Peter Greenough, Patricia Hughes, William Page Johnson, Henry Klopping, David Nelson, Gary Olson and Sharon Speck.

The commission will be looking at issues such as the availability of educational opportunities for deaf individuals at elementary through postsecondary, adult and continuing education levels; the role and impact of research programs and outreach activities of Gallaudet and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID); improvement of programs for deaf people; and problems associated with illiteracy.

'Interview Bloopers' offers comic look at problems deaf job applicants face

The scene: A deaf job applicant arrives with his interpreter for an interview with a potential employer.

The interviewer talks loudly with exaggerated lip movements, asks insensitive questions, and discusses the applicant during a phone conversation—until she realizes that the interpreter is continuing to translate every word. In all, the interviewer makes about 20 blunders based on false assumptions about deaf people.

A videotape entitled "Interview Bloopers: A Comical Look at Interviewing Deaf Applicants" records such mistakes committed by employers considering deaf applicants. The videotape, produced by Experiential Programs off Campus (EPOC), recently received an award for the best entry in the Employment and Handicapped category of Superfest XIV, an international media festival on disabilities.

EPOC coordinator Anne Nissen plays the role of the patronizing, misinformed and very rattled interviewer in the videotape. She speaks in a loud, slow, exaggerated manner at first and later

turns away entirely to do work while the interpreter conveys her words. She asks the applicant how he will be able to get up in the morning and whether he can read Braille. She focuses on his deafness more than his qualifications, and she is obviously uncomfortable in his presence.

"Bloopers" grew out of twice-yearly workshops entitled "Strategies for Supervising Your Hearing Impaired Student" presented by EPOC for the past seven years to current or potential supervisors of deaf employees. During the workshop, Nissen and others perform a skit similar to the scene portrayed in the videotape, and they ask the audience to write down the mistakes made by the interviewer. The videotape first showed only the interview scene, but Nissen said EPOC staff people felt that it needed a discussion at the end, which was added.

Appearing as the interpreter in the tape is Lily Ransom, a former EPOC coordinator. Ransom, who coordinated the production, also appears with

continued on page 2



KDES teacher Shelby Kubis (left) interprets for a Brigham Young University student (right) who, with two fellow BYU students, was at KDES this month to work with students on computers. Young Ha Baek (seated, left) and Ayuk Ogork watch. The BYU students left for China, where they are working with Chinese deaf students on computers. Because the Chinese deaf program is oral, the BYU students learned Chinese but did not learn sign language.

Announcements

Lonise Bias, mother of deceased Maryland University basketball star Len Bias, will be the featured speaker at the June 4 MSSD annual awards banquet.

Anyone wanting to receive the Gallaudet Cable TV Guide may do so by calling x5121.

The Office of Intramurals and Recreation will offer the following classes from Feb. 2 through April 11: exercise medley, yoga, weightlifting, ballroom dancing, handball and the Gallaudet Workout and Workout Plus. There is also a departmental volleyball league. Registration for all activities will be held Jan. 27 and 28 in the Ely Center Atrium and the student cafeteria from noon to 2 p.m. and in the KDES and MSSD lobbies from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, call Gina Oliva, x7515.

Dance classes for hearing impaired and hearing children 4 to 12 years old will be held Feb. 21 through May 2. The classes include modern jazz, ballet and sign-and-tap dancing. Classes in ballet/tumbling will be held for children 4 to 6 years old. Registration forms are available from the Physical Education and Recreation Department. For more information, call x5492 or x5591.

A University Center has been established as a part of the reorganization of Student Affairs. The University Center is a merger of the Student Union and the Office of Student Development. As a result of the merger, the Student Union part of the Ely Center has been renamed the University Center, x5144.

The Student Life unit has been renamed Residence Life, x5245. Dr. Virginia Cowgell will serve as acting director of Residence Life until a replacement is found for former director Marsha Morales, who recently resigned.

The Department of English has an opening for a temporary English instruc-

tor beginning in July. Applications for the one-year position are due March 1.

The Arena Stage will present the following sign-interpreted performances: "Crime and Punishment," Feb. 19; "Glengarry Glen Ross," March 5; and "The Crucible," July 9. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Deaf ticket buyers are provided free play synopses prior to performances and seating that ensures maximum viewing. Tickets are \$17, and include a post-show reception to meet actors and staff. For reservations, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Arena Stage, 6th and Maine Ave. SW, Washington, DC, or call 484-0247 (TDD).

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) recently published a revised "Directory of Agencies and Organizations Serving Deaf-Blind Individuals, 1987," a nationwide listing of resources and services. To order, send a \$10 check payable to HKNC, Community Education Department, 111 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY 11050, or call (516) 944-8900.

Ogoke leaps hurdles

continued from page 1

implementation and maintenance of Gallaudet's institutional research database, which is used by the president and other University administrators. He works closely with program managers to help them identify their informational needs. In addition, Ogoke assists Computer Service personnel in making the best use of strategies for database development.

"Ari's unique knowledge of systems theory and his computer technology skills are valuable in meeting the University's need for systematic ways to gather and use information," said Doin Hicks, OIRPE vice president.

Ogoke is currently implementing a system for recording, analyzing and reporting Gallaudet's outreach services.

"Our purpose is to establish uniform reporting procedures among the various programs," said Ogoke. "Considering the variety of information collected from the different programs, such a system must uniformly represent the University's activities, yet recognize each program's uniqueness."

AAAD receives grant

The U.S. Olympic Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD) to develop the potentials of deaf coaches and officials.

Richard Caswell, a 1955 Gallaudet graduate, will serve as project officer of the one-year grant, assisted by Donald Ammons of the Department of Foreign Languages. The grant proposal was written by Dr. Ronald Sutcliffe of Business Services; he is also chair of an ad hoc committee to study the structure of the AAAD.

The primary purpose of the grant is to encourage more deaf coaches to obtain certification by national sports organizations.



Gathered to recognize the recent signing of an agreement between Gallaudet and the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus, to establish the Caribbean Education Resource Center are (left to right, front) Dr. Gilbert Delgado, project director; Nilda Garcia Santiago, dean, College of Education, UPR; President Jerry C. Lee; Dr. Juan Fernandez, chancellor, UPR; (left to right, back) Silvia Golocovsky, educational resource specialist, ICD; Dr. Celeste Freytes, project coordinator, UPR; Eli Savanick, director, ICD; Dr. Mervin Garretson, special assistant to the president; Dr. Phillip Schmitt, professor, Dept. of Education; Dr. Diane Rivera, special assistant to the chancellor, UPR; Dr. Catherine Ingold, provost; and Dr. Robert Davila, vice president for KDES and MSSD.

'Bloopers' shows interview boo-boos

continued from page 1

Nissen in the discussion session at the end.

When a representative of the Corporation on Disabilities & Telecommunications called from California to say that "Bloopers" had won the Superfest award, Nissen asked the corporation to inscribe two plaques—one for EPOC and one for the parents of Russell "Rusty" Herten, who appears in the videotape as the young deaf applicant. Herten died by drowning several weeks after the taping was completed two years ago.

Nissen said that after Herten died, she was not sure how his parents would feel about the videotape, so she wrote and offered to show it to them. Two weeks later his family came to the campus—his parents, his fiancée, a brother and an uncle—and sat holding hands while they watched the videotape. They watched it a second time, and then told Nissen that "it made them feel good to think that Rusty was continuing to help train employers to hire deaf people." Herten, a senior when he died, was a biology major.

Many U.S. government agencies and

other employers have copies or have inquired about "Bloopers," and Nissen said that the Canadian Department of Defense made 13 copies of the videotape for distribution to regional film libraries for training purposes.

House 1 rated highly

The Edward Miner Gallaudet residence, also known as House One, was recently recognized by the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for its "excellence in historic preservation and architecture."

Noted in the award were Gallaudet University as the owner of the building; the architectural firm of Wilkes, Faulkner, Jenkins and Bass; and contractors Skinner & Garrett, Inc.

Jobs Available

Below are recently listed staff openings. For a complete list, call the job recording, x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

ART TEACHER: KDES

RESEARCH SCIENTIST, TESTS AND MEASUREMENTS: Center for Assessment and Demographic Studies

BOOKKEEPER/DATA ENTRY

CLERK: Development Office

CUSTODIAN: Physical Plant

Classified Ads

WANTED: West German student wants to stay with an American family for 4 to 8 weeks starting in July while studying ASL and education of deaf persons. Will pay for room, board and all personal expenses. Call Dr. Townsley, x5567 or 5560.

WANTED: Home for altered male cat, mixed breed, indoor type, gentle, affectionate. Moving, needed immediately. Free cat-carrier. Call Robert, 543-4938 (V) or x5400.

FOR RENT: 1 BR of new townhouse in Greenbelt near bus line. Kitchen privileges, W/D, microwave. Nonsmoker, non-allergic to cat. Rent negotiable. Call Lynn, x5035 days or 345-6642 (TDD) eves.



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